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Number 449

LABOUR ORGANISER

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ACCINGTON C.L.P. invites applications for the post of full-time Secretary/Agent. Salary and conditions in accordance with the National Agreement. Application forms can be obtained from Councillor J. Riley, Labour Hall, Blackburn Road, Accrington, Lancs., to whom they should be returned not later than 28th November, 1959.

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THE LABOUR ORGANISER

EDITOR: A. L. WILLIAMS

PUBLISHED BY THE LABOUR PARTY, TRANSPORT HOUSE, SMITH SQUARE, LONDON, S.W.1

VOL. 38. NO. 449

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 1959

PRICE TENPENCE

What Use is Organisation?

THE 1959 General Election is the first since the War when there has been a substantial actual swing of votes away from Labour. 1950 and 1951 saw an increase in the Labour vote (the 1951 Labour vote being the biggest ever given to a British political party). Yet, in both these elections Labour lost seats, in 1950 reducing the Labour Government's majority to six and in 1951 giving the victory to the Tories with a clear majority of 17 Members.

In those elections, Labour losses were due to two main factors. One was the rise in the Tory vote, and the second was redistribution, which caused a number of smaller constituencies, mostly Labour strongholds, to disappear. Labour now requires some 1.0 per cent more of the popular vote to obtain the same number of seats as the Tories.

1955 Abstentions

Labour losses in 1955 were due to abstentions, because though the Tory vote decreased the decrease in the Labour vote was greater. The Wilson Committee estimated that there were 66 seats which could have been won if the Labour electoral organisation had been strong enough to call out the same proportion of its supporters as the Tories had done.

The 1959 election saw a bigger turn-out than that 4½ years previously. The

percentage increase in the poll was 1.9 per cent, but the register was a year old, while that of 1955 was only seven months old. In the marginal constituencies both in 1955 and 1959 the turn-out was much higher than the national average.

Vote Fell

Despite the larger turn-out, the total Labour vote fell this time by less than 200,000 while the increase in the Conservative vote was less than 500,000. The Liberals increased their vote by not many short of one million, but the significance of this increase is obscured by the fact that there were nearly double the number of Liberal candidates. The increase in the Liberal vote on the basis of the number of candidates was 16.6 per cent per candidate, but it must be remembered that they fought only seats where they thought they would do well.

The Tories, despite their increased vote, not only did not secure a majority of the total votes cast, but actually had 0.3 per cent smaller share than last time, a fact to which few papers gave any prominence.

Where the Liberal votes would have gone if there had been no Liberal candidates is difficult to say. Some Liberal voters might well have voted Labour in the absence of a Liberal candidate, but others might have voted

Tory. But the Liberal campaign was mainly directed against Labour and in some cases this must have taken more Labour votes than Tory votes.

It is impossible to escape the conclusion that electors who had voted Labour in 1955 and the earlier post-war elections this time voted Conservative. And, on the basis of reliable reports from constituencies where a canvass of all recorded Labour supporters was completed during the election, a number who promised to vote Labour must have voted Conservative when they got to the polling booth. The causes of this defection will be the subject of examination in other places. Our immediate concern is the effect of organisation on the results.

Marked Improvement

Generally, there was a marked improvement in Labour organisation, especially in the marginal constituencies where in most there was a register marked with a substantial number of Labour supporters before the campaign began and where during the campaign these supporters were canvassed. Election workers were more numerous than ever before, and there appeared to be no shortage of cars.

Also, considerable progress had been made in registering Labour supporters for the postal vote and, though the Labour registrations in nearly all cases were well below those of the Tories, they represented an increase on 1955, when practically no local parties did anything about the postal vote. In the light of these facts the question is does organisation count?

In his studies of the elections of 1951 and 1955, David Butler expressed the opinion that local organisation had little effect on the outcome in any constituency, a view with which the *Labour Organiser* disagreed.

Taking 164 marginal constituencies, in 1959 the average turn-out was 2.2 per cent higher than the national average, a very high poll on a register 12 months old. The swing against Labour

in these constituencies was slightly less than the national swing, being .93 per cent compared with 1.15 per cent.

The higher turn-out in marginal constituencies obviously is the measure of the additional organising effort made by the rival parties. It is impossible to estimate the exact contribution of the organisation of any single party. Where in a constituency the organisation of one party is good and the other is poor, and the seat is won with a small majority by the party with a strong organisation, it can be claimed that organisation won the seat. On the other hand, if the organisation of both parties is equal, then obviously other factors must be responsible for the result.

A good example is Woolwich West where Labour has one of the best electoral machines in the country. Here, with a small decrease in the electorate, the Conservative vote increased by 392 and the Labour vote decreased by 4238. Even if all the votes given to the Fellowship Party had been added to Labour, the Tory would still have held the seat, though with a slightly reduced majority. Who can doubt that if Labour organisation had been poor in Woolwich the Tory majority would have been much greater?

Poor Organisation

On the other hand there are examples, fortunately very few, where Labour organisation was poor compared with that of the Tories and where Labour lost the seats by a very narrow majority. It is quite justifiable to attribute these losses to organisation.

The least that can be said of organisation is that if there is a strong national trend of public opinion in favour of a party, good constituency organisation will win it additional seats, but if the trend is the other way, good organisation will minimise its loss of seats. In a situation where public opinion is pretty equally divided, organisation can decide the outcome.

One of the dangers of the present situation is that those who ran the local organisations in this election having done all the things that they were asked to do to make their organisation efficient, and finding the results worse than last time, will conclude that organisation does not matter at all.

Worse Results

Even the 1959 election results would have been much worse had it not been for the organisational effort, seats would not have been won, and many more would have been lost. If organisation is permitted to run down instead of being made more efficient, there will be little chance of winning the next General Election.

Parliamentary elections are not the only elections with which we are involved and the information about Labour supporters and Labour voters obtained during the General Election will be invaluable in the local elections next spring. However, it is essential that the electors marked as Labour 'promises' should be re-canvassed during the local elections to make certain that the markings are correct and that changes have not taken place since the markings were made.

A local election agent in a ward will find it much easier to canvass three or four thousand Labour 'promises' than to canvass the whole of the electors in the ward. To a much greater extent than at a Parliamentary election, because of the much smaller poll, success at a local election depends largely on the ability to call out supporters on Polling Day and this cannot be done without the necessary records.

During the General Election a large number of supporters who were not members turned out to help. Despite the terrific anti-Labour publicity barrage by the Tory Party and Press, the National Union of Manufacturers, the steel masters and others, over 12 million people voted Labour, but less than one-twelfth of these are individual members of the Party. If an effort is made it should be easy to bring a large proportion of these Labour stalwarts into membership, and the marked register of Labour 'promises' is needed for the planning of future membership campaigns.

Indeed, the marked register should be the basis of most local party activities. If this time some old supporters fell away and if we were not able to win over 'doubtfuls', then we must accept the blame for not putting our own policy in a way that carried conviction. That elections are won between elections has become a *cliche*, but though this fact is so apparent, too many local parties do nothing between elections to keep in touch with supporters, let alone convert those who are likely to respond to our propaganda.

It is to these that the leaflets and the broadsheets should be distributed, pamphlets sold and the invitations to party functions addressed. There is enough material in the records of the 1959 election which, if properly used meanwhile, can guarantee success next time.

**Do not forget
those who were
left off the
Register**

THIS year the annual registration period coincided with the General Election campaign, and in those areas where the information was obtained by canvassers rather than by the postal delivery of Form A, the Registration Officers' canvassers possibly had a livelier than usual reception!

According to the *Municipal Journal*, it is believed that the percentage return of Form A was higher this year, probably because electors thought the claims were related to the election on 8th October.

During the election campaign our canvassers will have found many supporters not on the current register. Some of these will appear on the next

register, but others will still be missing unless we do something about it.

Reports confirm one's own experience that the registers tend to be more inaccurate in districts where large numbers of private houses have been sub-let—with the owner still occupying part of the house. Time and time again it has been found that sub-tenants, or boarders, are not on the register, while, on the other hand, electors long since departed, are still included.

Larger Towns

This problem is usually more acute in the larger cities and towns, where such districts may comprise a substantial part of a ward—or even of a constituency.

These were the sort of districts where Labour might have expected support from electors as a result of the Rent Act. In practice, however, many of the occupiers—the more 'permanent' electors, were registered — and probably continued to vote Tory (being not displeased with their income from sub-letting), while the sub-tenants, who were more likely to be our supporters—were unable to vote at all!

Whatever the reasons for these omissions, we must make sure that the names of all our supporters who are qualified are included in the 1960 register.

Your election canvass and other records which should have been saved, can provide much useful information. They should be examined now, and lists of non-registered supporters drawn up.

If you have postal vote records, you will know that, generally speaking, those supporters who claimed postal votes on grounds of removal *into* your area ought now to appear on the newly-qualified Electors List (B). Similarly, those who were 'outward' removals should now appear on List C.

It should also be remembered that any electors who have a postal vote

on grounds of incapacity or employment, will need to make a new application if they have moved, even though their new address is still in the same area.

The Electors Lists will be available on 28th November, and from that date until 16th December it will be possible for claims to be made by or on behalf of people whose names are not on the current Register (List A) or on the list of newly-qualified electors (List B).

List C—of persons no longer qualified as electors — should also be carefully examined to (1) make sure that supporters who are still qualified are not on this list, and (2) that any persons known to be no longer qualified are on it.

The first fortnight in December may not be the best time of the year to organise a general canvass. On the other hand, a registration canvass is less involved than other types, and it may be possible to 'harness' the enthusiasm of those younger helpers whose presence during the election campaign was a source of encouragement. The fact remains that it is the most satisfactory way of ensuring a good register for next year's local elections.

If a complete canvass is out of the question, see that some knowledgeable person in each polling district has the lists for correcting. Four copies of the B and C Lists are provided free by the Electoral Registration Officer, and arrangements should be made by the constituency secretary to see that they are quickly available at local level.

Claims can be made on behalf of other persons, though it is preferable for them to sign their own forms. The claim is made on form RPF.5 (RPF.5/1 for Scotland). Supplies can be obtained from the Electoral Registration Officer or duplicated forms to the like effect can be used.

Double Number

Because of the General Election the Labour Organiser was not published in October. Instead we are publishing a double number filled with views, facts and figures, which may be useful to readers when studying the lessons of the election.

GOOD ADDRESSES

Labour publicity material at this election showed great improvement on past efforts and was better than most Tory literature we have seen.



GORDON WALKER

Portrait by Sir John Peel, M.P., and Gordon Walker, M.P.

B A beautifully printed window bill in full colour. But, obviously, far too costly a thing for the average constituency party to even consider.



To the voters of the Billericay Constituency:—

May I have a word with you about the main issues of this vitally important General Election?

A A long 'thin' making good use of competent brush lettering. Informal and unusual approach to the problem of the introductory leaflet.

LABOUR

Want to Help?

Come to 7 St. James' St., or 'phone Hsides 4582.

and on Polling Day

VOTE EARLY

Don't wait for John—

It may be Too Late!



SHORE

Published by C. Higgins, 7 St. James' Street, London W.1

Designed by C. Higgins, 7 St. James' Street, London W.1

About John Stonehouse

YOUR LABOUR and Co-operative Candidates has been the Member of Parliament for Witherslack from February 1957 to the dissolution. During this time he has been available every week for his constituency during recesses, in the House of Commons he has been a probing questioner and a fervent debater.

Also distributed for the past years of opposition labour has. He fought his first election at the age of 23, represented Tinsley in 1950 and Burton in 1951, where he retained the Conservative majority in F.E., and he was a Borough Councillor in Witherslack 1954-1955.

John Stonehouse served as a pilot and education officer in the Royal Air Force before going to the London School of Economics and Political Science where he graduated B.Sc.(Econ.) Honours.

He has travelled widely in Europe, America and in Africa and has the result from his knowledge of the economic problems with which Parliament must deal. He is an elected Director of the Labour Co-operative Society and a member of the Royal Institute of International Affairs.

VOTE LABOUR

on Thursday, October 8th

7.30 PM. NEWS 8.30

VOTE

STONEHOUSE

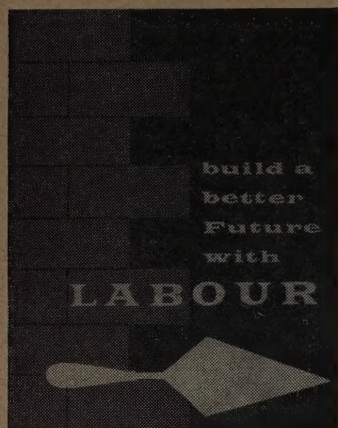
Published by C. Higgins, 7 St. James' Street, London W.1

Designed by C. Higgins, 7 St. James' Street, London W.1



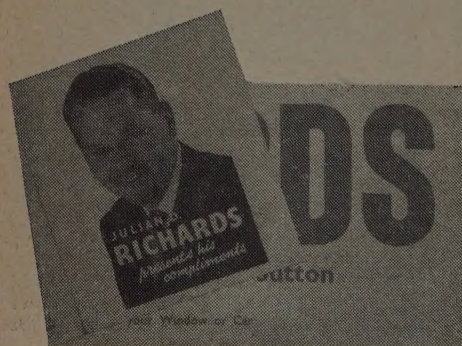
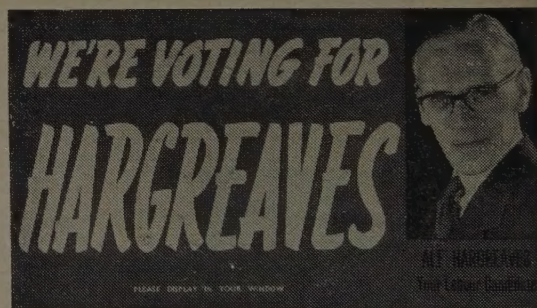
D Extraordinarily good photographs well done on the outside panels. The inside page, however, is stodgily presented because its measure is too wide.

C Brush lettering made to work here, too. The only touch of informality in an otherwise straight layout. Crisp copy, with no frills.

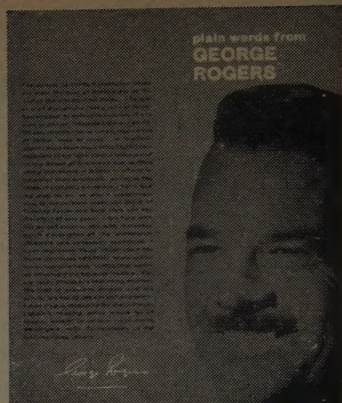


E Lithographically printed. A process very rarely used for this purpose, but in this case used to great effect. Candidate's photo appears inside.

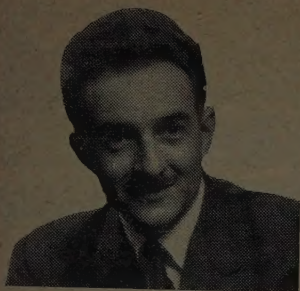
This is both a window bill and an election address. Very well thought out, although the layout of the address could have been improved.



H Killing two birds with one stone. This is a combined introductory leaflet and window sticker. An extremely good idea, if somewhat indifferently printed.



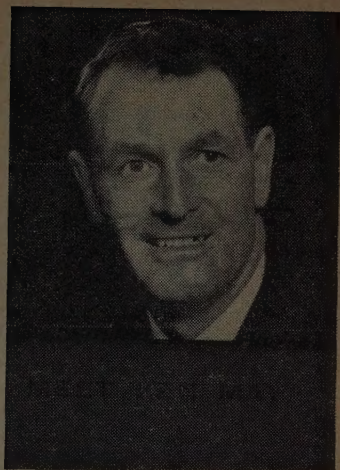
F A simple single fold address with the candidate's head printed in black on a solid colour. Based on a head office model election address.



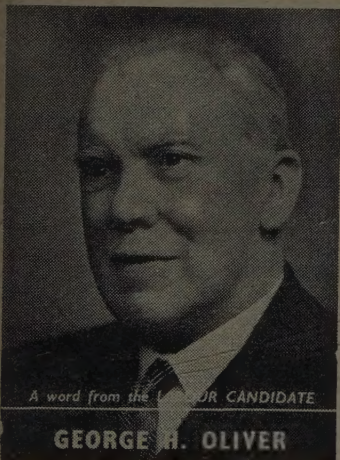
**GEORGE
MAYER**

● A regular job.
Your children's education
and opportunities. The
cost of government on your
home. What money will
buy. How much your in-
come will drop on re-
tirement.
● These things matter to
you.

I Simple, direct and decently contrived. A good front page, a fair inside spread but a dismal turnover. A case of Queen Ann front and Mary Ann back!



J Good, dramatic photograph used well. The inside spread has been well looked after, except for some lack of incisiveness in the display of the banner heading.



L Neat and tidy, well printed, but lacks bite. Here is a first rate portrait and obviously worth the space that it was given.



K An old favourite. A plain but clean layout. Warning: Only a first-rate portrait of the candidate will make this approach succeed.

8

LABOUR FOR SUTTON!

RICHARDS

Published by A. A. SWEETLAND, Beaumont Hall, St. Jude's,
Plymouth; and Printed by SWINDON SIGNCRAFT LTD.,
Henry Street, Swindon, Wiltshire.

M A reminder-card in the form of a single-date calendar sheet. A real eye catcher on the doormat. Used in several constituencies.

PEACE
FULL EMPLOYMENT
SECURITY



PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION
SOUTH DORSET CONSTITUENCY
POLLING-DAY



WE ARE VOTING

LABOUR

ASCHER

SYNCHRONOUS SOCIALISM

[illegible]

1974-1975

and been certain they would be "left out" immediately after the election. It's cheaper and easier to find than people who the committee would use as its only true product they are 170 intelligent people have been made to sell for 2715 then fight them? Conservative Big Business one of my supporters who have visited Texas will not take time to enlighten on back

PERSONNEL HEALTH SERVICE

HOUSING AND JOBS

Rather than take the Old Age Pensioners' Housing Service Staffing, would it not be better to staff the large public, the kind of expressive advertising and how samples in which every doctor is subjected, then the great emergency Drug House, the wholesale consumption of which largely over-the-counter products themselves in turn to

Many and cheaper wholesome food instead of the usual of mankind processed self-serving food, more facilities for playing games rather than merely watching them, more brightness on streets and health. About 10% of those who are members on the opening night

[illegible]

PLACENTINE

For more copies consult the Tory Ministry in London. It is decided that Blackbuck, upon which is shown the results of years 1933-34 has been again taken from the half a million pounds given by the American. The Ministry has written to tell me that Sir Eric Zerkington is satisfied with the official explanation. I am not, nor are the other members of the Ministry. I am not, nor are the other members of the Ministry. I am not, nor are the other members of the Ministry.

VOTE
for
ROY BROOKS

N As flamboyant as the candidate himself. Straight out of the property ad. stables (or should it be 'mews'?) No good trying this unless you're Roy Brooks.



On the first Saturday in every month Alice Bacon is at the Corn Exchange to help and advise constituents.



She is your
fish with
Parliament.

Vote for
Alice Bacon



ALICE BACON
FOR WESTMINSTER

P Making the most of a single colour. The best action picture of a candidate there has been. Good signposting of the copy.

Window bill and election address. It's a pity the copy for the window bill wasn't less, and the lettering made larger.

WEST MIDLANDS LOSES SEVEN

by H. R. Underhill

THE West Midlands has suffered a heavy reverse. Seven seats were lost—a quarter of the Party's total losses.

Since 1945 the West Midlands has shown remarkable stability, until this time. We won 34 seats in 1945, a gain of 24, but at each of the following three elections we held on to 32. Now we are down to 25.

The Party's regional vote is now 1,116,108, or 45.9 per cent of the total poll. Our drop in votes is just under an average of 500 per constituency. The Tories lead by 4.8 per cent of the total poll.

Nevertheless, we lost seven seats with a swing higher than that for the whole country.

Birmingham with its thirteen constituencies, of which five were marginal, was a particular disappointment. Not only were three seats lost, but seven are now, at least on paper, marginal. The average poll in the city was only 72 per cent, being only .5 per cent better than 1955. This is below the national and regional averages.

Undoubtedly, the substantial number of removals within the city may have been a contributory factor, but it is surely not the full explanation.

TORY PROPAGANDA

It is not the place in these notes to deal with the policy arguments to explain the results, except to say that the Midlands has been particularly affected by the sustained Tory propaganda of 'You've never had it so good'.

The transfer of electors was a contributory factor in the loss of some seats. Brierley Hill, where the previous Labour majority of 949 was turned into a Tory victory of 4,133, had 9,000 additional electors.

Meriden, with a Labour majority of 1,105 and now won by the Tories by 263, had 8,000 more electors.

All Saints, Birmingham, lost by 20 (previously a Labour majority of 1,307) and Sparkbrook, Birmingham, lost by 886 (previously held by Labour by 3,211) both had electorates down by 3,000.

Coventry South where a Labour majority of 1,688 was turned into a Tory one of 1,830, not only lost Labour votes by slum clearance but also had a substantial increase in private building.

Most constituencies had the happiest and most enthusiastic campaign since 1945. Organisation was considerably improved compared with the previous election.

BIRMINGHAM DOWN

No less than 11 of our 16 marginals polled over 81 per cent, six being over 83 per cent. The only marginals to poll below this were in Birmingham, where three losses were sustained with all polls relatively low.

This is my fourth election campaign in the West Midlands and it was by far the best we have had. In most marginals, in particular, there has never previously been such advance preparations, election organisation, spirit and enthusiasm as on this occasion.

Despite this general improvement even greater attention to certain aspects of organisation in some of the marginals might have saved some seats. But, most definitely our seven losses were not due to any breakdown in organisation, and I hesitate to think what might have been the result if the close attention to organisation over recent years had not been given.

The Liberal vote trebled, but so did the number of Liberal candidates. The Liberals did, however, oust us from second place in both Herefordshire constituencies.

Liberal intervention would appear to have been a contributory factor in the loss of Rugby by only 470. At Birmingham, Perry Barr, where our majority was cut to 183, the Liberal intervention would seem to have to some extent adversely affected our vote. But no Liberals stood in the other five marginals lost.

By contrast, at Dudley, where a Liberal in 1955 polled 5,479 but did not contest this election, the Tory vote rose by 5,768, ours by only 442, and our majority was halved to 5,725.

COUNTY MARGINALS

We did considerably better this time with postal votes, but in the county marginals the Tories did much better. If greater attention had been given to postal votes two marginals may have been saved—Meriden, Tory majority of 263 with 200 Labour postal votes of a total of 1,050, and All Saints, Birmingham, Tory majority of 20 with estimated 130 Labour postal votes of a total of 386.

If Rugby, Tory majority 470, had worked on postal votes as did the Tories elsewhere, that too might have been saved.

It is a matter for concern that in a few marginals so many postal ballot papers were not returned. For example, Perry Barr, Birmingham, only 330 out of a total issue of 553, Coventry South 823 out of 1,203, and at All Saints, Birmingham, only 386 out of 534.

Although most marginals sent a special letter to absent voters, the majority made no effort to visit the homes of supporters to ensure the ballot papers were properly completed and returned.

The Regional Office work in arranging special canvassing in overspill areas proved very successful, nearly 1,000 postal votes were secured for Birmingham constituencies, including the five marginals.

Never before in this region have there been such marked registers prior to an election. Some marginals recanvassed a high proportion during the election campaign, but in others only a few of the 'promises' received reminder calls. This was a grave weakness.

MARKED REGISTER

Many marginals failed to make full use of the marked register records over the past year, both for intensive work on postal votes and to ensure the Labour 'promises' received regular literature.

In some constituencies, because there appears no local explanation for the results, some members are saying there is little use in canvassing if the 'promises' cannot be relied upon.

This will need answering, particularly as the analysis of polling district voting already made in some marginals shows

Labour areas polled high and Tory areas polled low.

Failure to recanvass 'promises' during the election may be the explanation in some constituencies, but another may be that when canvassing, only one member of the household is seen and all voters in that family are then marked as 'For'.

Generally speaking, we are satisfied with the number of cars operating on polling day in most constituencies. Certainly the rural marginals, in particular, did not suffer from the change in the law. Burton had nearly 200 cars, Wrekin 80, Walsall South 100, Meriden 110, Warwick and Leamington 150, Northfield 100, and so on.

Mention must be made here of the splendid organisational job carried through in Coventry. As previously reported, Coventry faced the problem of the removal of a large number of electors from the marginal North and South constituencies to the strong Labour East constituency.

385 CARS

These were traced, canvassed and recorded, and on polling day a central pool of no less than 385 cars was organised, in addition to the cars doing normal work in the wards, solely to transport these removed Labour 'promises'.

By 8 p.m. on polling day about 1,200 supporters had been moved back to vote in the North constituency, and a further 1,000 to the South. But for this splendid effort the Coventry North seat might also have been lost, and the Tory majority in the South would have been far higher.

Defects there undoubtedly were in polling day organisation, but the polling day work was a great improvement on 1955. Further improvement might have held two or three seats. There is still need for more adequate training of those in charge of committee rooms.

Another grave defect was the lack of full-time help in the marginals to help the agent with detailed local organisational work and progress chasing during the election campaign. In the widespread rural marginals this was a noticeable weakness.

The help given to the marginals from other constituencies was disappointing. It did not come up to expectations. There were some splendid exceptions, and the assistance plans that were carried through

(continued on page 210)

What The Figures Foretell

AT least one political commentator has made much of the fact that the Tory Party has won three elections in a row. He appears to attach the same mystical significance to the figure '3' as some people attach to the figure '7'.

To bolster his belief that this third successive Tory victory has dire consequences for the Labour Party, he asserts that this has happened to no other government in Britain in modern times. He apparently ignores the Liberal government of 1906, which won two General Elections in 1910 and which continued in office until the outbreak of war in 1914, which resulted in the formation of a Coalition government under a Liberal Prime Minister.

The second Coalition also had a Liberal Prime Minister, in the person of Mr. David Lloyd George, and the candidates to whom he gave the Coalition 'coupon' won a resounding victory in the 'khaki' election of 1918. There was no Tory Government in Britain from 1906 until 1922, when the Coalition broke up.

Perhaps in political history, modern times only begin after the first world war, but even if this is so, these years are worthy of careful study by those who are anxious to interpret the 1959 General Election.

NOT VERY SUCCESSFUL

It was only in 1918 that Labour emerged as a truly national party with 361 candidates. In that election it was not very successful and only 57 Labour Members were returned. By 1922, however, it had become the official Opposition, and in 1923, though it was not the largest party in the House, Labour formed a short-lived government, and was defeated at the polls in 1924.

After the election of 1929, Labour with 288 seats was the strongest party,

but not a majority of the House, and the second Labour Government lasted only until 1931.

The rapid rise of Labour during those years was due not only to the dissatisfaction of the Tory handling of post-war problems, but also was because of the disintegration of the Liberal Party, caused by the split between the Lloyd George Liberals and the Asquith Liberals, when Liberal politicians deserted their party—some coming to Labour but most joining the Conservatives.

TWO MILLION LOST

Each General Election in the inter-war years saw an increase in the Labour vote until the disaster of 1931, when two million votes were lost and Labour Members of Parliament were reduced to 46. Even in 1935, when the Labour vote was restored, only 154 Labour Members were returned.

What would have happened if there had been a General Election in 1939 or 1940 it is difficult to say. What actually did happen was the outbreak of war in 1939, and the formation of another Coalition, in which Labour Ministers played a most important role, and so the contest was postponed until 1945.

The most striking feature of politics in this period was the tremendous recuperative powers of the Labour Party after the 1931 debacle. Despite the loss of its glamorous leaders, the Party stood solid and its loyal members won their reward in the General Election of 1945.

Just as 1945 must be seen in relation to what had gone before so must 1959 be seen in relation to 1945. In the 1945 election Labour secured less than 12 million votes and, on 48 per cent of the total poll, won 393 seats.

The Labour Government was defeated in 1951, though then the Labour vote was almost 2 million more than

it had been in 1945, and even represented a slightly larger share of the total poll. The Tory share of the poll in 1959 was only 0.7 per cent more than Labour's share in 1951, when Labour lost and the Tories became the government.

So far as the future is concerned, Labour can start in the knowledge that at this year's election it had nearly 12½ million votes (more than in 1945)

and 43.8 per cent of the total poll.

For the benefit of our readers, we publish in this issue the figures of General Elections from 1945 onwards as well as three other tables, showing comparative results in the marginal constituencies listed in the Wilson Report and other non-Labour marginal constituencies, as well as the comparative results in the seats lost at the General Election.

I—Facts of Five Elections

AGGREGATE VOTE

	1945 (thousands)	1950 (thousands)	1951 (thousands)	1955 (thousands)	1959 (thousands)
Labour	11,992	13,295	13,948	12,405	12,216
Con. and Assoc.	9,960	12,501	13,724	13,310	13,750
Liberal	2,245	2,621	730	722	1,640
Others	780	350	198	321	254
	24,978	28,769	28,602	26,759	27,862

ELECTORATE AND % POLL

Electorate	32,836	34,269	34,622	34,852	35,398
% Poll	76.0%	84.0%	82.6%	76.8%	78.7%

CANDIDATES AND MEMBERS

Labour					
Candidates	604	617	617	617	621
Elected	393	315	295	277	258
% of Poll	48.02%	46.4%	48.77%	46.3%	43.8%
Con. and Assoc.					
Candidates	624	607	617	624	625
Elected	213	298	321	345	365
% of Poll	39.87%	43.5%	47.98%	49.8%	49.4%
Liberal					
Candidates	307	475	109	110	217
Elected	12	9	6	6	6
% of Poll	8.98%	9.1%	2.55%	2.7%	5.9%
Others					
Candidates	148	155	33	58	73
Elected	22	3	3	2	1
% of Poll	3.13%	1.0%	.7%	1.2%	.9%

2—Possible Gains—Wilson Report

Constituency	1955		1959		Swing To Lab. + From Lab. —
	Electorate	% Poll	Electorate	% Poll	
Devonport					
	68,235	77.2	64,236	78.6	
Con.	24,821	47.1	Con.	28,481	56.3
Lab.	24,721	47.0	Lab.	22,027	43.7
Lib.	3,100	5.9			
Con. Maj.	100		Con. Maj.	6,454	—6.3
Bradford N.					
	51,472	81.8	51,957	83.2	
Con.	21,084	50.1	Con.	22,850	53.1
Lab.	21,015	49.9	Lab.	20,179	46.9
Con. Maj.	69		Con. Maj.	2,671	—3.0
Glasgow, Craigton					
	48,067	79.1	46,768	82.7	
Con.	19,120	50.3	Lab.	19,649	53.3
Lab.	18,910	49.7	Cons.	19,047	46.7
Con. Maj.	210		Lab. Maj.	602	+1.1
Central Ayrshire					
	47,112	83.3	48,596	86.7	
Con.	19,713	50.2	Lab.	21,901	52.0
Lab.	19,546	49.8	Con.	20,225	48.0
Con. Maj.	167		Lab. Maj.	1,676	+2.2
Oldham East					
	55,980	77.7	54,520	79.8	
Con.	19,185	44.1	Lab.	19,329	44.4
Lab.	18,805	43.2	Con.	17,499	40.2
Lib.	5,506	12.7	Lib.	6,660	15.4
Con. Maj.	380		Lab. Maj.	1,830	+2.5
Kingston-on-Hull North					
	65,880	77.4	63,918	81.5	
Con.	25,780	50.6	Con.	23,612	45.3
Lab.	25,190	49.4	Lab.	22,910	44.0
			Lib.	5,604	10.7
Con. Maj.	590		Con. Maj.	702	— .05
Nottingham Central					
	56,463	72.7	52,491	87.4	
Con.	20,903	50.9	Con.	24,004	52.3
Lab.	20,145	49.1	Lab.	21,869	47.7
Con. Maj.	758		Con. Maj.	2,135	—1.4
Ealing North					
	58,245	85.2	59,768	84.2	
Con.	23,040	46.5	Con.	27,312	54.2
Lab.	22,794	45.9	Lab.	23,036	45.8
Lib.	3,770	7.6			
Con. Maj.	246		Con. Maj.	4,276	—3.9

Constituency	1955		1959		Swing To Lab. + From Lab. --
	Electorate	% Poll	Electorate	% Poll	
Glasgow, Scotstoun	46,370	79.5	56,278	81.8	
Con.	18,654	50.6	Lab.	24,690	53.7
Lab.	18,226	49.4	Con.	21,320	46.3
Con. Maj.	428		Lab. Maj.	3,370	+4.3
Wrekin	46,897	80.1	48,789	84.2	
Con.	19,019	50.6	Con.	22,030	53.6
Lab.	18,541	49.4	Lab.	19,052	46.4
Con. Maj.	478		Con. Maj.	2,978	-3.0
Carlisle	48,324	82.3	49,519	84.6	
Con.	20,071	50.5	Con.	21,948	53.3
Lab.	19,701	49.5	Lab.	19,950	46.7
Con. Maj.	370		Con. Maj.	1,998	-1.8
Preston South	51,933	81.9	49,809	82.1	
Con.	21,497	50.6	Con.	21,954	53.7
Lab.	21,023	49.4	Lab.	18,935	46.3
Con. Maj.	474		Con. Maj.	3,019	-3.1
Eastleigh	48,929	81.5	55,215	84.5	
Con.	20,215	50.7	Con.	24,949	53.7
Lab.	19,670	49.3	Lab.	21,693	46.3
Con. Maj.	545		Con. Maj.	3,256	-3.0
Wandsworth Central	64,276	77.6	61,831	80.2	
Con.	25,484	51.1	Con.	23,655	47.7
Lab.	24,391	48.9	Lab.	21,683	43.7
			Lib.	4,287	8.6
Con. Maj.	1,093		Con. Maj.	1,972	- .9
Liverpool, Kirkdale	60,738	70.6	57,102	73.7	
Con.	22,356	52.1	Con.	22,416	53.3
Lab.	20,542	47.9	Lab.	19,669	46.7
Con. Maj.	1,814		Con. Maj.	2,747	-1.2
Maldon	52,027	83.5	54,401	83.1	
Con.	22,002	50.6	Con.	21,772	48.2
Lab.	21,452	49.4	Lab.	19,532	43.2
			Lib.	3,860	8.6
Con. Maj.	550		Con. Maj.	2,240	-1.9
Yarmouth	52,350	79.7	52,847	79.6	
Con.	21,317	51.1	Con.	22,827	54.2
Lab.	20,400	48.9	Lab.	19,248	45.8
Con. Maj.	917		Con. Maj.	3,579	-3.1

Constituency	1955		1959		Swing To Lab. + From Lab. -
	Electorate	% Poll	Electorate	% Poll	
Battersea South	39,239	80.6	37,320	78.8	
	Con. 15,044	47.6	Con. 14,203	48.2	
	Lab. 14,365	45.4	Lab. 12,451	42.3	
	Lib. 2,219	7.0	Lib. 2,774	9.5	
	Con. Maj. 679		Con. Maj. 1,752		-1.9
Eye	57,092	82.9	56,395	84.4	
	Con. 21,317	45.0	Con. 22,333	47.2	
	Lab. 20,428	43.2	Lab. 19,849	41.8	
	Lib. 5,582	11.8	Lib. 5,215	11.0	
	Con. Maj. 889		Con. Maj. 2,484		-1.8
Hornchurch	77,041	82.0	87,544	83.9	
	Con. 29,205	46.2	Con. 34,852	47.4	
	Lab. 27,833	44.1	Lab. 27,530	37.5	
	Lib. 6,117	9.7	Lib. 11,056	15.1	
	Con. Maj. 1,372		Con. Maj. 7,322		-3.9
King's Lynn	51,867	78.2	52,125	79.8	
	Con. 20,949	51.7	Con. 21,671	52.1	
	Lab. 19,611	48.3	Lab. 19,906	47.9	
	Con. Maj. 1,338		Con. Maj. 1,765		- .4
Halifax	68,714	80.2	67,149	83.3	
	Con. 28,306	51.4	Con. 29,212	52.2	
	Lab. 26,771	48.6	Lab. 26,697	47.8	
	Con. Maj. 1,535		Con. Maj. 2,515		- .8
York	73,849	83.6	73,717	84.3	
	Con. 31,402	50.9	Con. 33,099	53.3	
	Lab. 30,298	49.1	Lab. 29,025	46.7	
	Con. Maj. 1,104		Con. Maj. 4,074		-2.4
Sunderland South	61,615	77.4	68,014	80.0	
	Con. 24,727	51.9	Con. 27,825	50.9	
	Lab. 22,953	48.1	Lab. 26,835	49.1	
	Con. Maj. 1,774		Con. Maj. 990		+1.0
Hitchin	62,258	83.2	75,493	85.4	
	Con. 26,371	50.9	Con. 30,193	46.8	
	Lab. 25,406	49.1	Lab. 25,818	40.0	
			Lib. 8,481	13.2	
	Con. Maj. 965		Con. Maj. 4,375		-2.5

Constituency	1955		1959		Swing To Lab. + From Lab. -
	Electorate	% Poll	Electorate	% Poll	
Dulwich	66,495	78.7	66,988	79.2	
Con.	25,333	48.4	Con.	24,991	47.1
Lab.	23,482	44.9	Lab.	22,740	42.9
Lib.	3,501	6.7	Lib.	5,324	10.0
Con. Maj.	1,851		Con. Maj.	2,251	- .35
Walthamstow East	45,169	80.8	43,892	80.0	
Con.	16,873	46.2	Con.	16,622	46.8
Lab.	15,744	43.2	Lab.	13,721	38.6
Lib.	3,882	10.6	Lib.	4,974	14.0
			I.L.P.	183	.6
Con. Maj.	1,129		Con. Maj.	2,901	-2.6
Liverpool, West Derby	54,100	73.3	54,804	76.8	
Con.	21,124	53.3	Con.	22,719	53.9
Lab.	18,540	46.7	Lab.	19,386	46.1
Con. Maj.	2,584		Con. Maj.	3,333	- .6
Glasgow, Kelvingrove	39,672	67.6	34,319	70.9	
Con.	14,854	55.4	Con.	12,355	50.7
Lab.	11,966	44.6	Lab.	11,254	46.3
			I.L.P.	740	3.0
Con. Maj.	2,888		Con. Maj.	1,101	+3.2
By-election 1958					
Lab.	10,210				
Con.	8,850				
Lib.	1,622				
I.L.P.	587				
Lab. Maj.	1,360				
Wythenshawe	64,968	76.3	69,925	80.9	
Con.	26,200	52.9	Con.	28,934	51.2
Lab.	23,378	47.1	Lab.	27,625	48.8
Con. Maj.	2,822		Con. Maj.	1,309	+1.7
Norwich South	45,402	78.3	43,789	82.2	
Con.	18,659	52.5	Con.	19,128	53.1
Lab.	16,901	47.5	Lab.	16,884	46.9
Con. Maj.	1,758		Con. Maj.	2,244	- .6
Liverpool Walton	59,522	75.3	57,312	77.7	
Con.	23,851	53.2	Con.	24,288	54.5
Lab.	20,989	46.8	Lab.	20,254	45.5
Con. Maj.	2,862		Con. Maj.	4,034	-1.3

Constituency	1955		1959		Swing To Lab. + From Lab. -
	Electorate	% Poll	Electorate	% Poll	
Bochdale					
	62,126	82.8	61,191	85.4	
	Con. 26,518	51.6	Lab. 21,689	41.5	
	Lab. 24,928	48.4	Lib. 18,949	36.2	
			Con. 11,665	22.3	
	Con. Maj. 1,590		Lab. Maj. 2,740		+9.6
By-election 1958					
	Lab. 22,133				
	Lib. 17,603				
	Con. 9,827				
	Lab. Maj. 4,530				
Devizes	49,047	78.6	50,779	79.2	
	Con. 20,317	52.7	Con. 20,682	51.4	
	Lab. 18,242	47.3	Lab. 16,844	41.8	
			Ind. Lib. 2,707	6.8	
	Con. Maj. 2,075		Con. Maj. 3,838		-2.0
Doncaster	58,117	81.8	58,505	84.5	
	Con. 24,598	51.8	Con. 26,521	53.6	
	Lab. 22,938	48.2	Lab. 22,935	46.4	
	Con. Maj. 1,660		Con. Maj. 3,586		-1.8
Highwell	46,583	79.7	50,213	82.2	
	Con. 19,503	52.5	Con. 23,422	56.7	
	Lab. 17,628	47.5	Lab. 17,860	43.3	
	Con. Maj. 1,875		Con. Maj. 5,562		-4.2
Gloucestershire	51,166	81.7	57,026	81.9	
	Con. 21,760	52.1	Con. 26,168	54.8	
	Lab. 20,034	47.9	Lab. 21,567	45.2	
	Con. Maj. 1,726		Con. Maj. 4,601		-2.7
Norfolk South	43,887	81.8	43,458	82.4	
	Con. 18,690	52.1	Con. 19,275	53.7	
	Lab. 17,215	47.9	Lab. 16,542	46.3	
	Con. Maj. 1,475		Con. Maj. 2,733		-1.6
Rushcliffe	54,760	82.9	58,971	85.3	
	Con. 23,509	51.8	Con. 27,392	54.4	
	Lab. 21,866	48.2	Lab. 22,952	45.6	
	Con. Maj. 1,643		Con. Maj. 4,440		-2.6
Liverpool, Toxteth	52,575	69.6	49,686	70.9	
	Con. 20,576	56.2	Con. 19,575	55.5	
	Lab. 16,037	43.8	Lab. 15,660	44.5	
	Con. Maj. 4,539		Con. Maj. 3,915		+ .7

Constituency	1955		1959		Swing To Lab. + From Lab. -
	Electorate	% Poll	Electorate	% Poll	
Watford	52,662	82.4	53,388	84.8	
	Con. 22,546	52.0	Con. 21,216	46.8	
	Lab. 20,829	48.0	Lab. 18,315	40.5	
			Lib. 5,753	12.7	
	Con. Maj. 1,717		Con. Maj. 2,901		-1.1
Walsall South	56,990	80.2	62,804	83.1	
	Con. 24,077	52.7	Con. 30,471	56.5	
	Lab. 21,651	47.3	Lab. 21,689	43.5	
	Con. Maj. 2,426		Con. Maj. 8,782		-3.8
Buckingham	53,298	85.1	54,905	86.4	
	Con. 23,250	51.3	Con. 22,304	47.0	
	Lab. 22,110	48.7	Lab. 20,558	43.3	
			Lib. 4,577	9.7	
	Con. Maj. 1,140		Con. Maj. 1,746		- .5
Kemptown	58,622	70.0	61,119	73.7	
	Con. 23,142	56.4	Con. 25,411	56.3	
	Lab. 17,885	43.6	Lab. 19,665	43.7	
	Con. Maj. 5,257		Con. Maj. 5,746		+ .1
Lanark	49,726	85.9	57,094	87.2	
	Con. 21,828	51.1	Lab. 25,171	50.5	
	Lab. 20,870	48.9	Con. 24,631	49.5	
	Con. Maj. 958		Lab. Maj. 540		+1.6
Plymouth, Sutton	71,367	78.9	74,078	79.3	
	Con. 30,051	53.4	Con. 32,752	55.7	
	Lab. 26,241	46.6	Lab. 25,991	44.3	
	Con. Maj. 3,810		Con. Maj. 6,761		-2.3
Billericay	58,872	75.5	78,328	80.4	
	Con. 24,327	54.7	Con. 29,224	46.4	
	Lab. 20,121	45.3	Lab. 24,402	38.7	
			Lib. 9,347	14.1	
	Con. Maj. 4,206		Con. Maj. 4,822		+ .8
Woolwich West	55,329	83.2	54,563	84.5	
	Con. 23,981	52.0	Con. 24,373	52.7	
	Lab. 22,101	48.0	Lab. 20,678	44.7	
			Fel. Pty. 1,189	2.6	
	Con. Maj. 1,880		Con. Maj. 3,695		-2.0

Constituency	1955		1959		Swing To Lab. + From Lab. -
	Electorate	% Poll	Electorate	% Poll	
Portsmouth West	56,597	77.4	53,206	76.9	
Con.	23,729	54.2	Con.	23,600	57.6
Lab.	20,060	45.8	Lab.	17,334	42.4
Con. Maj.	3,669		Con. Maj.	6,266	-3.4
Southampton, Test	66,256	78.7	67,087	79.8	
Con.	26,707	51.2	Con.	30,176	56.3
Lab.	22,865	43.8	Lab.	23,410	43.7
Lib.	2,583	5.0			
Con. Maj.	3,842		Con. Maj.	6,766	-2.6
Glasgow, Woodside	48,632	72.8	44,746	75.2	
Con.	19,846	56.1	Con.	16,567	49.3
Lab.	15,543	43.9	Lab.	14,483	43.0
			Lib.	2,583	7.7
Con. Maj.	4,303		Con. Maj.	2,084	+3.0
Lewisham, North	52,485	77.9	52,415	81.2	
Con.	22,070	54.0	Con.	22,125	51.9
Lab.	18,834	46.0	Lab.	17,512	41.1
			Lib.	2,921	7.0
Con. Maj.	3,236		Con. Maj.	4,613	-1.4
By-election 1957					
Lab.	18,516				
Con.	17,406				
Ind.	1,487				
Lab. Maj.	1,110				
Banbury	61,019	77.1	64,414	81.0	
Con.	25,598	54.4	Con.	26,413	50.6
Lab.	21,473	45.6	Lab.	19,699	37.7
			Lib.	6,074	11.7
Con. Maj.	4,125		Con. Maj.	6,714	-2.0
Gravesend	59,099	80.8	63,299	82.3	
Con.	22,058	46.2	Con.	27,124	52.1
Lab.	19,149	40.1	Lab.	24,962	47.9
Ind.	6,514	13.7			
Con. Maj.	2,909		Con. Maj.	2,162	+1.0
Bolton East	61,601	79.2	60,580	80.9	
Con.	26,145	53.6	Con.	25,885	52.8
Lab.	22,634	46.4	Lab.	23,153	47.2
Con. Maj.	3,511		Con. Maj.	2,732	+ .8

Constituency	1955		1959		Swing To Lab. + From Lab.
	Electorate	% Poll	Electorate	% Poll	
Ross and Cromarty	25,746	61.9	25,350	65.3	
	Nat. Lib. 9,929	62.3	Nat. Lib. 7,813	47.2	
	Lab. 6,003	37.7	Lab. 4,815	29.1	
			Lib. 3,918	23.7	
	Nat. Lib. Maj. 3,926		Nat. Lib. Maj. 2,998		+3.2
Isle of Ely	61,188	70.7	61,387	74.7	
	Con. 24,862	57.5	Con. 26,173	57.0	
	Lab. 18,416	42.5	Lab. 19,705	43.0	
	Con. Maj. 6,446		Con. Maj. 6,468		+ .5
Berwick and E. Lothian	50,764	80.3	50,569	83.2	
	Con. 21,739	53.3	Con. 22,472	53.4	
	Lab. 19,029	46.7	Lab. 19,622	46.6	
	Con. Maj. 2,710		Con. Maj. 2,850		- .1
South Bedfordshire	54,050	81.9	65,416	83.9	
	L. & C. 23,365	52.8	L. & C. 25,861	47.1	
	Lab. 20,897	47.2	Lab. 21,102	38.4	
			Lib. 7,912	14.5	
	L. & C. Maj. 2,468		L. & C. Maj. 4,759		-1.5
Graham	57,546	82.8	59,026	81.9	
	Con. 24,188	50.8	Con. 27,482	56.8	
	Lab. 21,813	45.8	Lab. 20,867	43.2	
	Lib. 1,624	3.4			
	Con. Maj. 2,375		Con. Maj. 6,615		-4.3
Burton	57,025	80.8	58,229	82.4	
	Con. 24,519	53.2	Con. 26,926	56.1	
	Lab. 21,546	46.8	Lab. 21,032	43.9	
	Con. Maj. 2,973		Con. Maj. 5,894		-2.9
Darlington	59,448	82.3	59,342	84.4	
	Con. 25,765	52.6	Con. 24,318	48.6	
	Lab. 23,184	47.4	Lab. 19,901	39.7	
			Lib. 5,863	11.7	
	Con. Maj. 2,581		Con. Maj. 4,417		-1.8
Bury and Radcliffe	65,379	80.2	64,897	82.2	
	Con. 28,080	53.6	Con. 28,623	53.7	
	Lab. 24,331	46.4	Lab. 24,715	46.3	
	Con. Maj. 3,749		Con. Maj. 3,908		- .1

Constituency	1955			1959			Swing To Lab. + From Lab. -
	Electorate	% Poll		Electorate	% Poll		
Over	63,064	81.8		63,512	82.9		
	Con. 27,316	52.9		Con. 27,939	53.1		
	Lab. 24,298	47.1		Lab. 24,698	46.9		
	Con. Maj. 3,018			Con. Maj. 3,241			- .2
Reading, South	46,505	64.4		40,951	60.4		
	Con. 18,479	61.8		Con. 16,006	64.7		
	Lab. 11,432	38.2		Lab. 8,719	35.3		
	Con. Maj. 7,047			Con. Maj. 7,287			-2.9
Cambridgeshire	58,425	78.7		60,698	78.0		
	Con. 25,025	54.3		Con. 27,407	57.9		
	Lab. 21,051	45.7		Lab. 19,928	42.1		
	Con. Maj. 3,974			Con. Maj. 7,479			-3.6

3—Twenty-eight Other Possible Gains

Constituency	1955			1959			Swing To Lab. + From Lab. -
	Electorate	% Poll		Electorate	% Poll		
Leicester North	51,220	85.5		52,212	83.4		
	Con. 22,310	53.5		Con. 23,990	55.1		
	Lab. 19,407	46.5		Lab. 19,529	44.9		
	Con. Maj. 2,903			Con. Maj. 4,461			-1.6
Stockport North	53,271	79.8		53,287	82.1		
	Con. 23,547	55.4		Con. 23,487	53.7		
	Lab. 18,980	44.6		Lab. 20,265	46.3		
	Con. Maj. 4,567			Con. Maj. 3,222			+1.7
Uxbridge and Chiswick	42,528	82.0		39,881	82.0		
	Con. 18,489	53.0		Con. 17,869	54.4		
	Lab. 16,384	47.0		Lab. 14,950	45.6		
	Con. Maj. 2,105			Con. Maj. 2,919			-1.4
Middlesbrough West	52,916	82.5		53,059	84.5		
	Con. 25,495	58.4		Con. 24,602	54.9		
	Lab. 18,134	41.6		Lab. 15,892	35.4		
	Con. Maj. 7,361			Lab. 4,336	9.7		
				Con. Maj. 8,710			-1.4

Constituency	1955		1959		Swing To Lab. From Lab.
	Electorate	% Poll	Electorate	% Poll	
Wandsworth, Putney	66,776	76.0	71,772	80.0	
Con.	28,969	57.1	28,236	49.1	
Lab.	21,774	42.9	23,115	40.2	
			Lib.	6,166	10.7
Con. Maj.	7,195		Con. Maj.	5,121	+2.6%
Manchester, Blackley	58,653	77.3	57,851	81.3	
Con.	25,395	56.0	22,163	46.9	
Lab.	19,959	44.0	17,790	37.7	
			Lib.	7,223	15.4
Con. Maj.	5,436		Con. Maj.	4,373	+1.4%
Bolton West	56,724	79.1	54,035	79.7	
Lib.	24,827	55.4	23,535	54.6	
Lab.	20,014	44.6	19,545	45.4	
Lib. Maj.	4,813		Lib. Maj.	3,988	+ .8%
Luton	57,933	83.1	59,769	82.5	
Con.	24,722	51.3	27,153	55.1	
Lab.	20,304	42.2	22,134	44.9	
Lib.	3,140	6.5			
Con. Maj.	4,418		Con. Maj.	5,019	— .5%
Gillingham	47,561	79.5	48,390	80.6	
Con.	20,984	55.5	23,142	59.3	
Lab.	16,839	44.5	15,863	40.7	
Con. Maj.	4,145		Con. Maj.	7,279	—3.8%
Stockport South	47,251	79.0	47,265	81.5	
Con.	20,698	55.5	20,522	53.3	
Lab.	16,612	44.5	17,982	46.7	
Con. Maj.	4,086		Con. Maj.	2,540	+2.2%
Harrow East	49,460	82.6	49,273	83.5	
Con.	22,243	54.4	23,554	57.2	
Lab.	18,621	45.6	17,607	42.8	
Con. Maj.	3,622		Con. Maj.	5,947	—2.8%
By-election 19/3/1959					
	48,820	68.9			
Con.	17,766				
Lab.	15,546				
Ind.	348				
Con. Maj.	2,220				

Constituency	1955		1959		Swing To Lab. + From Lab. -
	Electorate	% Poll	Electorate	% Poll	
Cardford West	50,726	81.7	50,044	81.8	
	Con. 22,306	53.8	Con. 23,012	56.2	
	Lab. 19,147	46.2	Lab. 17,906	43.8	
	Con. Maj. 3,159		Con. Maj. 5,106		-2.4
Cherghlen	43,016	84.1	42,833	85.5	
	Con. 19,141	52.9	Con. 19,146	52.0	
	Lab. 17,040	47.1	Lab. 17,624	48.0	
	Con. Maj. 2,101		Con. Maj. 1,522		+ .9
Derborough	59,513	83.0	60,545	83.0	
	Con. 26,319	53.3	Con. 27,414	54.5	
	Lab. 23,091	46.7	Lab. 22,830	45.5	
	Con. Maj. 3,238		Con. Maj. 4,584		-1.2
Dwywood and Royton	59,203	81.8	57,868	84.7	
	Con. 25,824	53.3	Con. 19,742	40.2	
	Lab. 22,614	46.7	Lab. 17,588	35.9	
			Lib. 11,713	32.9	
	Con. Maj. 3,210		Con. Maj. 2,154		+1.1
Dymarthfen	57,956	85.1	57,195	85.4	
	Lib. 24,410	49.5	Lab. 23,399	47.9	
	Lab. 21,077	42.7	Lib. 16,766	34.3	
	W. Nat. 3,835	7.8	Con. 6,147	12.6	
			P. Cymru 2,545	5.2	
	Lib. Maj. 3,333		Lab. Maj. 6,633		+10.2
By-election 28/2/57					
	57,183	87.5			
	Lab. 23,679				
	Lib. 20,610				
	W. Nat. 5,741				
	Lab. Maj. 3,069				
Ecombe	63,094	82.0	68,199	84.7	
	Con. 29,845	57.7	Con. 30,774	60.7	
	Lab. 21,905	42.3	Lab. 19,904	39.3	
	Con. Maj. 7,940		Con. Maj. 10,870		-3.0
Hemel Hempstead	60,013	83.8	70,962	85.3	
	Con. 25,648	51.0	Con. 30,189	49.9	
	Lab. 19,512	38.8	Lab. 21,954	36.2	
	Lib. 5,111	10.2	Lib. 8,358	13.8	
	Con. Maj. 6,136		Con. Maj. 8,235		- .8

Constituency	1955		1959		Swing To Lab. From Lab.
	Electorate	% Poll	Electorate	% Poll	
Hertford	53,556	82.2	64,106	84.3	
	Con. 25,014	56.8	Con. 31,418	58.2	
	Lab. 19,030	43.2	Lab. 22,597	41.8	
	Con. Maj. 5,984		Con. Maj. 8,821		-1.4
St. Albans	47,827	79.3	52,823	82.8	
	Con. 21,828	57.5	Con. 23,157	52.9	
	Lab. 16,107	42.5	Lab. 14,650	33.5	
			Lib. 5,948	13.6	
	Con. Maj. 5,721		Con. Maj. 8,507		-2.2
Clitheroe	44,893	85.3	44,350	86.4	
	Con. 21,615	56.5	Con. 22,314	58.0	
	Lab. 16,671	43.5	Lab. 16,103	42.0	
	Con. Maj. 4,944		Con. Maj. 6,211		-1.5
Bury St. Edmunds	56,854	78.3	57,908	78.6	
	Con. 24,532	55.1	Con. 26,730	58.7	
	Lab. 19,962	44.9	Lab. 18,768	41.3	
	Con. Maj. 4,570		Con. Maj. 7,962		-3.6
Mid Beds.	51,699	81.4	53,889	84.5	
	Con. 23,012	54.7	Con. 21,301	46.7	
	Lab. 19,048	45.3	Lab. 16,127	35.4	
			Lib. 8,099	17.9	
	Con. Maj. 3,964		Con. Maj. 5,174		- .9
Stroud	55,862	84.5	57,222	85.2	
	Con. 23,318	49.4	Con. 23,448	48.1	
	Lab. 19,375	41.1	Lab. 18,336	37.6	
	Lib. 4,489	9.5	Lib. 6,988	14.3	
	Con. Maj. 3,943		Con. Maj. 5,112		-1.1
Chislehurst	58,063	84.9	59,646	85.8	
	Con. 24,514	49.7	Con. 25,748	50.3	
	Lab. 20,644	41.9	Lab. 19,069	37.2	
	Lib. 4,120	8.4	Lib. 6,366	12.5	
	Con. Maj. 3,870		Con. Maj. 6,679		-2.6
Epping	68,184	82.4	83,647	84.3	
	Con. 26,065	46.4	Con. 31,507	44.6	
	Lab. 22,542	40.2	Lab. 27,114	38.4	
	Lib. 7,528	13.4	Lib. 11,913	17.0	
	Con. Maj. 3,523		Con. Maj. 4,393		NIL

Constituency	1955		1959		Swing To Lab. + From Lab. -
	Electorate	% Poll	Electorate	% Poll	
Stamford and Stamford	40,818	79.7	41,061	80.9	
Con.	17,675	54.3	Con.	19,078	57.4
Lab.	14,856	45.7	Lab.	14,137	42.6
Con. Maj.	2,819		Con. Maj.	4,941	-3.1
Walsingham	50,399	76.8	50,051	80.8	
Con.	21,576	55.8	Con.	20,056	49.6
Lab.	17,107	44.2	Lab.	13,247	32.7
			Lib.	7,147	17.7
Con. Maj.	4,469		Con. Maj.	6,809	-2.6
By-election 14/2/56					
	50,806	62.2			
Con.	12,836				
Lab.	11,830				
Lib.	6,806				
Con. Maj.	1,026				

4—Labour Seats Lost

Constituency	1955		1959		Swing To Lab. + From Lab. -
	Electorate	% Poll	Electorate	% Poll	
Hartlepool	59,512	81.8	60,888	83.8	
Lab.	25,145	51.6	Con.	25,463	50.2
Con.	23,560	48.4	Lab.	25,281	49.8
Lab. Maj.	1,585		Con. Maj.	182	-1.8
Wideland	68,208	80.8	71,281	81.7	
Lab.	27,649	50.2	Con.	30,445	51.4
Con.	27,468	49.8	Lab.	28,790	48.6
Lab. Maj.	181		Con. Maj.	1,655	-1.6
Newcastle East	53,907	81.3	50,616	84.6	
Lab.	22,816	52.1	Con.	21,457	50.1
Con.	20,994	47.9	Lab.	21,359	49.9
Lab. Maj.	1,822		Con. Maj.	98	-2.2
Whitley	49,750	83.9	47,981	85.6	
Lab.	19,414	46.5	Con.	20,626	50.2
Con.	16,011	38.4	Lab.	20,456	49.8
Lib.	6,310	15.1			
Lab. Maj.	3,403		Con. Maj.	170	-4.2

Constituency	1955		1959		Swing To Lab. From Lab
	Electorate	% Poll	Electorate	% Poll	
Rochester and Chatham	61,819	82.2	64,386	80.8	
Lab.	26,645	52.4	Con.	26,510	51.0
Con.	24,198	47.6	Lab.	25,487	49.0
Lab. Maj.	2,447		Con. Maj.	1,023	-3.4
Barons Court	54,613	75.8	50,032	76.3	
Lab.	20,748	50.2	Con.	18,658	48.9
Con.	20,623	49.8	Lab.	17,745	46.5
			Ind. Lib.	1,766	4.6
Lab. Maj.	125		Con. Maj.	913	-1.4
Holborn and St. Pancras South	51,282	67.3	48,504	70.0	
Lab.	17,126	49.6	Con.	17,065	51.0
Con.	16,195	46.9	Lab.	16,409	49.0
Lib.	1,193	3.5			
Lab. Maj.	931		Con. Maj.	656	-2.3
Clapham	59,015	75.5	55,894	76.4	
Lab.	22,398	50.3	Con.	22,266	52.2
Con.	22,173	49.7	Lab.	20,390	47.8
Lab. Maj.	225		Con. Maj.	1,876	-2.5
Bristol North East	62,614	78.0	64,319	79.0	
Lab.	22,740	46.5	Con.	24,258	47.7
Con.	21,864	44.8	Lab.	21,574	42.4
Lib.	4,236	8.7	Lib.	5,030	9.9
Lab. Maj.	876		Con. Maj.	2,684	-3.5
Bristol North West	55,942	79.1	57,831	82.9	
Lab.	22,950	51.9	Con.	24,938	52.0
Con.	21,295	48.1	Lab.	23,019	48.0
Lab. Maj.	1,655		Con. Maj.	1,919	-3.9
Lowestoft	56,850	79.6	57,814	81.5	
Lab.	23,587	52.1	Con.	24,324	51.6
Con.	21,672	47.9	Lab.	22,835	48.4
Lab. Maj.	1,915		Con. Maj.	1,489	-3.7
Swansea West	58,923	75.1	58,045	82.7	
Lab.	22,647	51.2	Con.	24,043	50.4
Con.	21,626	48.8	Lab.	23,640	49.6
Lab. Maj.	1,021		Con. Maj.	403	-1.6

Constituency	1955		1959		Swing To Lab. + From Lab. -
	Electorate	% Poll	Electorate	% Poll	
Don	49,373	82.6	46,835	80.7	
	Lab. 20,645	50.6	Con. 19,358	51.2	
	Con. 20,120	49.4	Lab. 18,438	48.8	
	Lab. Maj. 525		Con. Maj. 920		-1.8
Huddersfield	59,678	84.2	58,772	82.8	
	Lab. 25,328	50.2	Con. 26,314	54.0	
	Con. 24,990	49.8	Lab. 22,372	46.0	
	Lab. Maj. 238		Con. Maj. 3,942		-4.2
Leeds East	60,604	76.1	58,865	73.4	
	Lab. 23,397	50.7	Con. 22,709	52.5	
	Con. 22,738	49.3	Lab. 20,499	47.5	
	Lab. Maj. 659		Con. Maj. 2,210		-3.2
Leeds West	53,372	81.7	56,997	84.3	
	Lab. 22,244	51.0	Con. 22,360	46.5	
	Con. 21,368	49.0	Lab. 20,970	43.6	
	Lab. Maj. 876		Lib. 4,746	9.8	
			Con. Maj. 1,390		-2.4
Leeds East Derbys.	60,476	82.1	65,457	85.1	
	Lab. 25,620	51.6	Con. 25,374	45.6	
	Con. 24,039	48.4	Lab. 25,362	45.5	
	Lab. Maj. 1,581		Lib. 4,980	8.9	
			Con. Maj. 12		-1.2
Leeds North	51,811	86.0	52,261	86.7	
	Lab. 22,745	51.0	Con. 22,964	50.7	
	Con. 21,819	49.0	Lab. 22,358	49.3	
	Lab. Maj. 926		Con. Maj. 606		-1.7
Leeds South	61,969	76.1	62,030	70.8	
	Lab. 25,539	54.1	Con. 22,052	50.2	
	Con. 21,631	45.9	Lab. 21,888	49.8	
	Lab. Maj. 3,908		Con. Maj. 164		-4.3
Leeds West	51,562	70.6	48,611	70.9	
	Lab. 18,867	51.8	Con. 17,235	50.02	
	Con. 17,560	48.2	Lab. 17,215	49.98	
	Lab. Maj. 1,307		Con. Maj. 20		-1.8
Leeds North West	51,057	72.2	47,731	72.5	
	Lab. 20,032	54.4	Con. 17,751	51.3	
	Con. 16,821	45.6	Lab. 16,865	48.7	
	Lab. Maj. 3,211		Con. Maj. 886		-5.7

Constituency	1955		1959		Swing To Lab. From Lab.
	Electorate	% Poll	Electorate	% Poll	
Yardley	59,078	75.0	59,135	77.1	
	Lab. 23,722	53.5	Con. 23,482	51.5	
	Con. 20,598	46.5	Lab. 22,097	48.5	
	Lab. Maj. 3,124		Con. Maj. 1,385		-5.0
Coventry South	65,404	81.4	67,394	82.2	
	Lab. 27,449	51.6	Con. 28,584	51.7	
	Con. 25,761	48.4	Lab. 26,754	48.3	
	Lab. Maj. 1,688		Con. Maj. 1,830		-3.3
Meriden	54,596	81.5	62,449	84.4	
	Lab. 22,796	51.2	Con. 26,498	50.3	
	Con. 21,691	48.8	Lab. 26,235	49.7	
	Lab. Maj. 1,105		Con. Maj. 263		-.9
Rugby	46,011	85.4	47,809	85.6	
	Lab. 19,709	51.0	Con. 17,429	42.6	
	Con. 18,331	46.6	Lab. 16,959	41.2	
	Ind. 1,274	3.3	Lib. 6,413	15.7	
			Ind. 142	.3	
	Lab. Maj. 1,378		Con. Maj. 470		-2.9
Brierley Hill	62,179	78.9	71,161	81.9	
	Lab. 25,013	51.0	Con. 31,202	53.5	
	Con. 24,064	49.0	Lab. 27,069	46.5	
	Lab. Maj. 949		Con. Maj. 4,133		-4.5

NOTE.—North Lewisham and Kelvingrove are shown in Table 2.

(continued from page 192)

may pave the way for the future. In too many non-marginals there still remains a too narrow parochial outlook which must be changed before the next election if vital marginals are to be completely manned and are to have all the workers needed on polling day.

I have been very impressed by the marvellous spirit shown by our members at meetings attended since the election. There is a natural disappointment at the results, but no bitterness. There is certainly no panic, but a healthy inclination to make a realistic appraisal of the position. As one agent has said in his

election report, "Our job is to convert a few more people to be socialists and then get them to vote for us".

I must not discuss policy here, but I feel we have paid insufficient attention to our publicity and propaganda in the constituencies. I give second place to none in my appreciation of the vital necessity to build proper records, particularly the marked register, to further improve work on postal votes and the polling procedure, but a mere mechanical organisation in the marginals without at the same time carrying through sustained education, publicity and propaganda will be so much wasted effort.

OUR 'TWO MASSIVE DEFECTS'

WHO killed Cock Robin? That indeed will be the subject matter of the inquests we shall shortly be holding into the results of the General Election. And as one who entered the Socialist movement before the Labour Party was born, and has tended the boy, and next the adult, all the years since, I want to be one of the first to point out some causes of defeat as I see them. But in doing so I want to pay tribute to a well-fought fight and a grand effort against too great odds. What beat Labour was two massive organisational defects. The first was a failure to capture the youth of the country, and the second was the failure to get our own out of the well-to-do and increasingly aggressive middle-class vote.

* * *

Taking youth first, it has been apparent for years that the Tories were succeeding in attracting and enthusing young people to an extent almost unimaginable to Labour. Organisationally they begin early and they hold out late. And they are assisted in the creation of a class-conscious snobocracy by the deplorable bias that has descended on so many of our grammar and secondary schools. It is the same in the Universities. There for education, our young men and women acquire, as well, the look and class-consciousness of other breed—Toryism picks them up. The parlous state of the Labour Party in the several Universities confirms my story. We are going through a period of perversion in our schools and colleges, and only an earlier attention to the enlightenment of the young going to seal off the young minds from the influences that are at work. Thirty years ago I, and some others, among them Mrs. McNab Shaw, that mighty Scotch fighter, whose husband was one-time Scottish Secretary of the Party) tried to get the move-

ment to take up the education of the young in Socialist principles. We failed, for the Party turned, almost with scorn, away from the prospect of 'proselytizing among the children'. It wasn't thought exactly moral; and so we abandoned the child mind to militarism, Toryism, entertainment, rock

We welcome this article from **HERBERT DRINKWATER**. Now eighty-three, he was founder of the *Labour Organiser*, and its editor for many years.

and roll, dancing, the Churches, sport and all and any sort of influence that hadn't such fine scruples.

Three decades of children have risen since and the three waves have each gone Tory. Isn't it time we reconsidered this matter? I suggest that to only begin our Socialist education and organisation at an age which we assume to be the earliest age of discretion and possibility of choice, is to entirely overlook the fact that children are today grown up at twelve, and can often even teach one sex, or all about it, at eleven.

* * *

Regarding the middle classes, I presume none is going to deny that this great and growing vote is the well from which both Tory and Liberal Parties draw their greatest strength. The middle classes, probably as numerous now as the working class itself, is the most supremely class-conscious one of all; it is the cleverest of all, alive to what it regards as its own interests, and it receives constant recruitment from the working-class better paid section, and again from the young of the working class, as pointed out above.

The middle classes are economically a mixed-up lot. With social and economic parasites galore, we descend, via the great professional classes, to salaried and well-paid workers useful to society but imbued with much false pride and a tendency to emulate the Joneses.

It is with the professional classes that Labour has missed its way. Our movement should be simply alive with doctors, surgeons, nurses, architects, the higher engineers, teachers, dentists, writers, and all the rest. But where are they?

The fact is we must not only open our ranks and make place for such persons. We must first understand their outlook, prospects and problems.

I think I have pointed out before that in the bitter years of shortage after the war the middle classes found their Waterloo. The housewife, used to house-help in her largish establishment, found the supply of domestics cut off; entertainment, too, was no longer possible and the middle-class woman found indignity in waiting in queues.

As her husband's income rose, she found 'fair shares' blocked her road to the acquirement of extras she could afford. Her discontent was fanned by the Tory Press and spokesmen who told her rationing was unnecessary and that Labour policy was one of deprivation *for her*. She believed them and voted Labour out, almost viciously.

As the years sped on, the middle-class woman got deeper tarred with Tory intuitions and took up capital punishment, flogging and the extremes of every policy. Yet truth is her worries in life were hardly known. To keep up their position they must have a car—a financial blight on the home for years. New chimneys must, like the Joneses, display the costly banners of ITV and the BBC. More expense, and then the frigate, and the multiple expensive kitchen devices, that the Jones bought and the must have, in the self-deceit that the house can be so run without labour.

Politically or organisationally Labour cannot do much about all this. But surely we can understand and remember that these things are the trouble of tens of thousands of women whom we would attract—the wives of professionals and the women professionals themselves.

As for the male middle class, well, I want the professionals; and I have before indicated my belief that the way to get them is to adopt more and more the late Sidney Webb's idea of stratified electioneering.

Union Candidates and Members

	Candidates	Members
National Union of Agricultural Workers ...	4	2
B.I.S.K.T.A. ...	2	2
Clerical and Administrative Workers' Union ...	2	1
Electrical Trades Union ...	4	—
Almagamated Engineering Union ...	15	8
A.E.S.D. ...	2	—
National Union of General and Municipal Workers ...	5	4
A.S.L.E. & F. ...	3	3
National Union of Mineworkers ...	31	31
United Patternmakers' Association ...	1	1
Union of Post Office Workers ...	2	2
N.U.P.E. ...	2	1
N.U.R. ...	9	5
N.U.S. ...	1	—
U.S.D.A.W. ...	10	9
National Union of Tailors and Garment Workers ...	1	1
United Textile Factory Workers' Association ...	2	1
Tobacco Workers' Union ...	1	—
Transport and General Workers' Union ...	19	14
Transport Salaried Staffs' Association ...	8	5
Typographical Association ...	1	1
National Union of Vehicle Builders ...	1	1
Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers ...	3	1
	129	93

THAT OTHER INQUEST—ON 1924

WHEN the 1925 Annual Conference met at St. George's Hall, Liverpool, under the Chairmanship of Mr. C. T. Cramp, it looked back upon the 1924 General Election and took stock.

There had been three General Elections in as many years, which had placed a great strain on the personnel and finances of the Movement. Nevertheless, the spirit had been wonderful, and not even the setback of October, 1924, had dimmed enthusiasm.

The growing interest in politics had been reflected in the 80 per cent poll, as was pointed out in the previous article, despite the loss of 42 seats, Labour's total vote increased by 139,241. Even where seats were lost the increase in the Labour vote was marked.

Among the Members returned were four of the original Parliamentary Labour Party who had retained their seats continuously since 1906, Rt. Hon. C. W. Bowerman (Deptford), Rt. Hon. Stephen Walsh (Ince), Rt. Hon. J. R. Clynes (Manchester, Platt), and Mr. Will Thorne (Plaistow).

ELECTION ANALYSIS

An analysis of the election results convinced the Party that loss of seats was mainly due to two factors, the bad letter scare and the Liberal-Tory pact. In many cases Liberals deserted their own candidates, and for the most part the Liberal votes went in favour of Tory candidates—hence the drop in the Liberal vote of 1,230,000.

It was inevitable that there would be debate at this Conference on the advisability of a future Labour Government taking office without power. The attack was led by Ernest Bevin, who moved the following resolution on behalf of the Transport and General Workers' Union:

This Conference is of opinion that in view of the experience of the recent

Labour was defeated in the election of 1924. This article describes what happened at the next Party Conference, when an inquest was held on the election results and decisions were taken for the future.

Labour Government, it is inadvisable that the Labour Party should again accept office whilst having a minority of Members in the House of Commons.

The motion was seconded by Mr. W. H. Martin, of the Finsbury Trades and Labour Council, and supported by Mr. John Bromley, M.P., speaking on behalf of the Locomotive Engineers and Firemen, Mr. Ben Tillett, of the Transport and General Workers' Union, and Mr. Neil Maclean, M.P., of the Workers' Union.

The Rt. Hon. J. H. Thomas, M.P., of the N.U.R., and Mr. J. Doonan, of the Miners' Federation, opposed the motion on behalf of their Unions.

In moving the motion, Ernest Bevin admitted that his union supported Labour taking office in 1923.

The Labour Party had, however, now experienced a minority Labour Government and his union was of the opinion that it was inadvisable to take office again under such conditions when it had been made obvious that the only way of getting any legislation passed was by continuously compromising with the Opposition.

BEVIN'S REPLY

Bevin did not take kindly to the argument that to decide here and now not to take office without power, would damage Labour's chances at the next election. He contended that trade unionists wanted a straight line in politics. If the great mass of working men in this country knew that if they wanted certain legislation laid down, they must give Labour a majority, the position would be clear. If

they failed to return Labour to power, they would know they could not have the legislation they desired.

Ernest Bevin left the conference in no doubt about his attitude. He firmly believed that anything less than a Labour Government with power would be fatal to the growth of the Labour movement.

Ramsay MacDonald replied to the debate. He began by asking conference to take a realistic view of the resolution. There was no immediate prospect of an election, but no-one could foresee what would happen within the next 12 months or two years. Yet conference was being asked by the tacticians to say that if the Party was returned at the next election with 306 Members they would take office, but if returned with 304 they would not do so. Those sort of tactics would not do.

Referring to personal criticisms made by Ben Tillett, Ramsay MacDonald expressed regret that former Parliamentary colleagues should have belittled their comrades in the Government. The votes of those who had stood by the minority Labour Government were just as acceptable to the building up of a great stock of Labour principles as the votes of those who went into the other Lobby and tried to weaken the Labour Government in the House and in the country. He appealed for a good spirit in the future.

TEAM MEMBER

He was not afraid of minorities, nor did he care who was the Prime Minister, or Leader, as long as he was a member of a team he *would* be a member of it. He would fight for it, and if the team went down, he would go down with it. There might be times of great crisis when there would be grave disagreements, as had been the case during the war, but no provision could be made for such eventualities.

Nevertheless, in normal times, particularly when Labour colleagues were carrying great responsibilities, he preferred the man who, in the words of Lord Palmerston, "stood by his friends when he thought they were mistaken as well as he stood by them when he was convinced they were right".

He instanced the attacks made on Tom Shaw by his colleagues on the question of unemployment. The Bill which the movement had striven for had been placed on the Statute Book. The first

thing the Tory Government had done was to try and take away the provision which Labour had secured.

There were critics within the Party who had said that the Labour Government had done nothing worth while. What were these people saying now? There were things that they had ridiculed while the Labour Government was doing them, they now regarded as matters of tremendous importance! They were not pressing the Labour Opposition to make a row in the House because the Tory Government was sweeping away all the benefits which the Labour Government had given to the people.

MACDONALD'S CASE

He asked what would be the effect of the resolution if carried. MacDonald contended that all the Tories would have to do at a by-election would be to put to the resolution and say "What's use of electing these people?" At a general election the position would be worse. Our opponents would point out how far we would have to go before obtaining half the seats. The Tories would say to the electors "Don't waste your vote on people who take no responsibility except for criticism".

The issue could not be settled by resolution. He was not going to say would advise the Party to take office again as a minority government, unless he could be assured of a good team spirit, he would be afraid of taking office even with a majority.

He counselled the Party not to take a decision at that time, and urged it to keep to the grindstone of reality, to carry on with its work, and, when the problem arose, a decision could be made after due and practical consideration.

In reply to the debate, Ernest Bevin was very critical of MacDonald and Thomas and obviously fearful of some form of coalition. In his appeal he asked that it should be laid down as a clear policy that we were an independent Labour movement representing the working class of this country, which was opposing capital and forcing the moment to stand in a solid phalanx upon the battle was fought and won in both the industrial and political fields.

It was a powerful appeal, but it failed and Bevin's motion was heavily defeated.

Following a slight lull after the 1924 general election, party activities had been

med at full pitch. By the time
 tional Conference met, there were 3,130
 sional and local Labour parties in
 ence and, out of 602 constituencies,
 e were only two where there was no
 of party organisation. Women's
 anisation was rapidly progressing, and
 e were now 1,535 Women's Sections.
 men's membership stood at over
 000.

he organisation of Youth was now to
 fore. A number of local parties had
 n up youth organisation with en-
 iasm, and the number of junior
 ions established during the year was

he Party had ventured into another
 re: there had been a growth of
 rs and music societies. This was a
 t natural development in those propa-
 da days, for the meaning of socialism
 be expressed in many ways. Mr.
 bert Morrison and Mr. Rutland
 ghton wanted to take advantage of
 great enthusiasm which was growing
 this cultural development, and they
 e largely responsible for the establish-
 t of the London Labour Choral
 on.

was they who drew up a draft con-
 tion for the National Labour Choral
 on, which the National Executive
 mittee had approved. The idea was
 development of choirs at local level
 the holding of both regional and
 onal music festivals.

S. E. Barker

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